Supplementary information for:

Gender bias in a Grade 7 CBSE English textbook: A content analysis of NCERT's Honeycomb

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Table S1. Gender orientation in the theme of the lessons of the English textbook "Honeycomb" (Grade 7, CBSE – Central Board of Secondary Education, India).

Title of the lesson	Description	Remarks
Three Questions	The story features only male characters, highlighting men in roles of wisdom, leadership, and moral decision-making. The absence of female figures suggests that such qualities belong mainly to men. This reinforces traditional gender bias by excluding women from intellectual and ethical roles.	Male-dominated
The Squirrel	The poem refers to the squirrel as "he," assigning it a male identity by default. This reflects a common bias where male pronouns are used for non-gendered subjects. Traits like playfulness and agility are linked with masculinity, reinforcing gender stereotypes.	Male-dominated
A Gift of Chappals	The story reinforces traditional gender roles by showing boys as dominant and assertive, while girls are passive and nurturing. Male characters are linked to expertise and authority, while female roles are confined to caregiving and domestic tasks. This creates a clear gendered division in behavior and responsibility.	Male-dominated
The Rebel	The term "rebel" is simply gender neutral. The poem does not explicitly specify the gender of the rebel. The poem avoids gender centricity, making the "rebel" an abstract, universal figure rather than assigning a specific gender.	Gender neutral
Gopal and the Hilsa Fish	The story portrays Gopal as the active, dominant character, using his wit and intelligence to drive the plot. His wife, on the other hand, plays a passive, reactive role, supporting Gopal's actions. This reflects a traditional narrative pattern where men lead, and women are confined to supportive roles.	Male-dominated
The Shed	The poem adopts a male-centric narrative, featuring only male characters, with the brother portrayed as an authoritative figure. The absence of female figures reinforces traditional gender roles, while the journey of overcoming fear highlights masculine traits like bravery, curiosity, and defiance. This emphasis on male dominance reflects conventional gender orientations.	Male-dominated
The Ashes that Made Trees Bloom	In the story, the old man is portrayed as an active provider, working outside to support the family, while the old woman assumes a domestic role, focusing on caregiving and household tasks like preparing food and making a cushion for the dog. This reflects traditional gender roles, where men are seen as financial providers and women manage the home and caregiving duties.	Male-dominated
Chivvy	The poem does not directly reinforce gender bias, as it generalizes the experience of all children being subjected to adult authority. The absence of gender-specific references might suggest an attempt at neutrality.	Gender neutral
Quality	The text centers on a male-dominated narrative, with Mr. Gessler and his brother as the primary characters, emphasizing craftsmanship and dedication to their trade. The absence of female characters or any mention of women in professional or personal contexts reinforces traditional gender roles, associating skilled labor with men and marginalizing women's contributions. This omission reflects a historically male-dominated workspace, highlighting a gender bias by exclusion.	Male-dominated

Trees	The text reflects by assigning traditional gender roles to mothers and fathers. The mother is depicted as appreciating the aesthetic value of trees, reinforcing the stereotype of women as nurturing and artistic. In contrast, the father is shown performing a physically demanding task, raking leaves, aligning with the conventional portrayal of men as responsible for labor-intensive outdoor work. This subtle differentiation reinforces societal expectations regarding gender roles and responsibilities.	Male-dominated
Expert Detectives	The lesson subtly shapes perceptions of decision-making and moral judgment, presenting Maya as assertive and quick to judge, while Nishad is depicted as empathetic, sensitive, and cautious. Maya takes on an authoritative, investigative role, assuming Mr. Nath's guilt, while Nishad questions her assumptions and shows concern for him. This aligns with traditional gender norms, portraying females as impulsive and emotional, and males as logical and compassionate.	Male-dominated
Mystery of the Talking Fan	The poem's language subtly reinforces gender biases by personifying the fan with male pronouns ("his chatter," "his little whirling motor"), associating agency and mechanical traits with masculinity. This reflects traditional stereotypes, where machines and technical subjects are linked to men, while the fan's silence after being "oiled" suggests that efficiency and control are desirable traits. Though seemingly neutral, these linguistic choices contribute to the gendered associations present in everyday language.	Male-dominated
The Invention of Vita-Wonk	The story does not prioritize gender roles in its theme, focusing more on the imaginative and scientific aspects of the narrative. The absence of gender-specific references might suggest an attempt at neutrality.	Gender neutral
Dad and the Cat and the Tree	The text reflects gender bias through its portrayal of traditional gender roles. The father is depicted as confident and dismissive of concerns, associating masculinity with risk-taking and problem-solving, while the mother is cautious, emphasizing safety and expressing doubt. This reinforces the stereotype that men are expected to be physically dominant and adventurous, while women are seen as protective and risk averse.	Male-dominated
Garden Snake	The poem reflects gender orientation by presenting the mother as the source of knowledge and reassurance, reinforcing the traditional role of women as caregivers and educators within the home. The absence of a male figure aligns with stereotypical gender roles, linking nurturing and imparting wisdom to femininity. The use of "mother says" as an authoritative voice suggests a reliance on maternal guidance, which may reinforce traditional gendered expectations in decision-making and knowledge acquisition.	Female-dominated
A Homage to Our Brave Soldiers	The text emphasizes war, bravery, and patriotism, but focuses mainly on male soldiers and war heroes, with minimal mention of women in the armed forces. By naming only male war heroes, it reinforces a male-centric narrative of valor and sacrifice. This omission reflects gender bias, marginalizing women's contributions to national defense.	Male-dominated
Meadow Surprises	The text emphasizes curiosity, exploration, and appreciation of nature without reinforcing traditional gender stereotypes. In terms of gender orientation, the poem lacks explicit gender representation, presenting a neutral and nature-focused perspective.	Gender neutral

Table S2. Gender orientation in picture used in the lessons of English textbook "Honeycomb" (CBSE – Central Board of Secondary Education, India).

Lesson no.	Title of the lesson	Description		Remarks
		Reflection of male pictures	Reflection of female pictures	
1	Three Questions	The visuals emphasize male roles in leadership, labor, and caregiving.	No female figures are present, indicating a lack of representation of women.	The absence of female imagery overlooks women's roles in society
2	The Squirrel	No particular gender imagery was used	No particular gender imagery was used	Gender neutral
3	A Gift of Chappals	Male figures suggest roles of observation, skill, and wisdom.	Female figures are depicted as active participants in learning, observation, and nurturing.	There are no visible power dynamics or hierarchies in the image
4	The Rebel	No particular gender imagery was used	No particular gender imagery was used	Gender neutral
5	Gopal and the Hilsa Fish	Male figures dominate decision-making spaces	There is no noticeable female representation in the selected frames	The absence of female imagery overlooks women's roles in society
6	The Shed	No particular gender imagery was used	No particular gender imagery was used	Gender neutral
7	The Ashes that Made Trees Bloom	The figure of male character is portrayed as the primary agent of action	The figure of the female character is in a more observant and supportive role	Bias in role-playing
8	Chivvy	No male imagery was used	No female imagery was used	Gender neutral
9	Quality	The male figures are depicted in various roles, including a shopkeeper, shoemaker, and customer, all engaged in commercial exchange	There is no noticeable female representation in the selected frames	The absence of female imagery suggests a gendered depiction of professions related to the shoe industry, where only men are shown as both business owners and workers
10	Trees	No particular gender imagery was used	No particular gender imagery was used	Gender neutral
11	Expert Detectives	Both genders are equally represented. Pictures of the male and female gender engaged in the same activity such as	Both genders are equally represented. Pictures of the male and female gender engaged in the same activity such as educational activity	There are no visible of bias or hierarchies in the image

		educational activity		
12	Mystery of the Talking Fan	No particular gender imagery was used	No particular gender imagery was used	Gender neutral
13	The Invention of Vita-Wonk	No imagery was used	No imagery was used	Gender neutral
14	Dad and the Cat and the Tree	Male pictures represent active, problem-solving, and sometimes humorous roles	The female characters are shown as spectators, watching the male's actions from a distance	Potentially limiting aspirations and reinforcing unequal power dynamics
15	Garden Snake	No imagery was used	No imagery was used	Gender neutral
16	A Homage to Our Brave Soldiers	Male pictures represent as a soldier	No female figures are present, indicating a lack of representation of women in defense	Limiting aspirations and reinforcing unequal power dynamics
17	Meadow Surprises	No particular gender imagery was used	No particular gender imagery was used	Gender neutral